Internship Case Study:
Nicholas Bristow

> *"Don't be afraid to ask questions and seek help."*

Company:
Electric Utility Company

Internship Length:
6 months

Describe the application and interview process:
I filled out an informational application my junior year. The next step was a behavior interview with 8-9 industry reps - looking for willingness to learn, best effort given, GPA, etc. with a second interview a few months later with 15-40 hiring managers from various companies. The process was daunting the first time through. Once hired, the company HR department followed up with resource materials, etc. The hiring process required a drug test and 2 background checks, one more in-depth as the work progressed and the need for security clearance increased.

What was the size of your team? Where was it located in the organization?
Part of a larger Engineering department with an individual team of 6 people.

What was your role and what work did it involve?
I felt like I did meaningful work for the company such as implementing network intrusion detection, project management, configuring networks, scripting PowerShell/Batch, etc. I had taken a course in malware defense access control which helped with cybersecurity portion of work experience.

What was most valuable about your work experience?
I think the networking opportunities — making connections in the industry, exposure to new processes such as project management, learning skills in cybersecurity and the feeling of helping the company.

What tips would you give other students look for cybersecurity internships?
Take classes in cybersecurity and any computer science classes you can.
Use online resources such as CBTNuggets to increase your knowledge and understanding of the work.